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tion at a later period. (e. g. Oxford Studies in Social and Legal History, IV: 78-9). There is a remedy at law but the ordinary procedure fails. Secondly, there is a class of bills in which the remedy sought did not exist by regular legal process. Bills seeking remedy for breach of contract furnish an illuminating instance. It is notorious that the common law failed to provide a remedy for breach of contract by non-feasance till the sixteenth century, yet in these bills damages are sought for just such a breach. For example bill 92 sets forth that a contract was made for the sale of land. Despite the payment of the purchase price the vendor sold the land to another and thereby "cheated and deceived" the plaintiff (vendee). (*e issi le degela e le deceust*). There is no doubt that the chancellor afforded a remedy in such a case, and, curiously enough, this bill is on all fours with a famous case in the Exchequer Chamber (Y. B. 20 Henry VI. 34. 4.). This and other similar bills for breach of contract (e. g. Bills 11, 36, 63, 71, 91, 143) will bear careful study. In brief Mr. BOLLAND has thrown much light on a hitherto little explored field of legal history.

If the statements of the bills can be trusted they present a vivid picture of the social conditions of the time, in which the absence of anything like police protection is most conspicuous. We read that a woman is struck down and her head battered with stones while she lies senseless. (Bill 97). A man is subjected to a barbarous outrage which scarcely bears telling. (Bill 147). In neither case is there any criminal proceeding; the bill is the only outcome. Such cases are scattered broadcast throughout the volume. One must remember, of course, that the mediaeval plaintiff was gifted with a fertile and picturesque imagination, and it is not unlikely that in an *ex parte* statement he did not hesitate to exaggerate his injuries. The editor, however, is of opinion that most of the allegations are substantially true. (Introduction, p. xlix.)

In the introduction Mr. BOLLAND has fully discussed matters connected with procedure by bill. He has also an interesting note on the authority of the Eyre in which he revises his previous statement in the third volume of the Eyre of Kent. We have before expressed (13 Michigan Law Review 436) a high opinion of Mr. BOLLAND's work. This volume confirms it.

W. T. B.

A REVIEW OF BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES, BEING VOLUME I OF ESSENTIALS OF THE LAW, by Marshall D. Ewell, LL. D., late President and Dean of the Kent College of Law of Chicago. Matthew Bender & Company, Albany, N. Y., 1915. pp. xvi, 867.

This is the second edition of EWELL'S BLACKSTONE, the first having been published in 1882. It presents the result of twenty-seven years of underscoring and annotating by the author as he has taught this work to successive classes, together with notes and references to other texts in which may be found citations of cases on the elementary principles discussed in BLACKSTONE. The book is a shorter BLACKSTONE, from which the editor has sought to eliminate all matter that is no longer useful, while retaining all that is of

present interest. On such selection there can of course be no general agreement, but the present work is doubtless as successful as any. At all events one finds here nearly if not quite all the familiar BLACKSTONE, and a good deal that few read at the present day, such for example as Book I, chapters 3 to 13, and a large part of Books III and IV.

It will be generally admitted that the production of BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES was one of the most extraordinary performances in the history of legal writing. Appearing just as the United States was entering on its existence as a nation, the COMMENTARIES constituted the whole law library of many a lawyer in the early days of our history, and lawyer and disciple of BLACKSTONE became synonymous terms. BLACKSTONE'S hold was scarcely relaxed for a century, and his work has a secure place as a legal classic. Nevertheless, it is as a classic, in its original form and not abridged, to be read by the trained lawyer, rather than as a text-book for the training of the law student, that it promises to hold its place in future. While some schools still use it as a text, yet its view of the nature of law is no longer accepted, its statements of legal principles are inadequate and necessarily often antiquated and misleading, and other methods of teaching have largely supplanted the pure text-book method, so that BLACKSTONE is less and less read as an introduction to legal study. In schools so using it, however, the present work will doubtless be considered very useful, for it is the result of long experience in such use, by a very able editor and teacher.

E. C. G.

THE CONTINENTAL LEGAL HISTORY SERIES. Edited by a Committee of the Association of American Law Schools.

IX. HISTORY OF FRENCH PUBLIC LAW. By Jean Brissaud, late Professor of Legal History in the University of Toulouse. Translated by James W. Gardner, Professor of Political Science in the University of Illinois. With Introductions by Harold D. Hazeltine, Reader in English Law in Cambridge University, and by Westel W. Willoughby, Professor of Political Science in Johns Hopkins University. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1915. pp. lviii, 581.

This volume represents Volume I of BRISSAUD'S "MANUEL D'HISTOIRE DU DROIT FRANCAIS." Volume III of this series ("HISTORY OF FRENCH PRIVATE LAW") gave to us Volume II of BRISSAUD'S treatise, while Part III of Volume I of this series ("GENERAL SURVEY") was a translation and condensation of pp. 150-345 of the first volume of BRISSAUD'S work. The translations of the other parts have been reviewed at some length in previous issues of this Review. (Cf. 11, MICH. L. REV. 342 and 496).

After a very interesting introduction on the origin of the state, this volume proceeds chronologically through the Roman epoch and the barbarian epoch, then devotes a chapter to the church under the "ancien régime," then, resuming the chronological treatment, gives us three chapters on the feudal period, and seven on the monarchical period, with a closing chapter on the revolutionary period. The institutions are treated topically in the several periods.